

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The polymer used in the compositions of the present invention may be any of rubber, or elastomeric or thermoplastic polymers or thermosetting resins typically used to modify the properties of asphalt. Conventionally utilized rubber or elastomeric polymers include block copolymers, ~~thermoplastics, thermosetting resins,~~ synthetic and natural rubbers, and fibers, among others. Examples of suitable polymers include styrene-butadiene copolymer, styrene-isoprene copolymers, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, polydiene, polyethylene, and polypropylene. Diene contributed monomer units may include 1,3-butadiene, isoprene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, and 1,3-pentadiene. Suitable rubber or elastomeric polymers desirably are present in amounts of about 12% or less by weight of the asphalt composition.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] Other additives, such as inhibitors, also may be added to the asphalt compositions of the present invention. Suitable inhibitors include, but are not limited to, t-butylcatechol, hydroquinone, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy, free radical (hydroxyl-TEMPO), quinonemethides, diethylhydroxylamine, and combinations thereof.